



**Date:** August 22, 2006  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager *for*  
**From:** Michael A. Killebrew, Director of Financial Management *MAK*  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** **Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Community Outreach Results**

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Since the inception of the Financial Strategic Plan, a renewed emphasis has been placed on transparency and the active participation of the community in the budget development process. To this end, each year staff solicits the community's feedback through presentations at City commission, board and committee and neighborhood association meetings as well as through the annual Citywide Budget Summit. Staff then assembles the feedback garnered through these conversations and presents the input to the City Council as part of budget deliberations.

While developing the Fiscal Year 2007 (FY 07) Proposed Budget, staff attended over 50 community meetings to share information on the budget and collect community input. All community input has been assembled in the attached document, for your review and consideration. These responses will be made available to the community on the City's Internet website at [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov) and from the Budget Office upon request.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.

GRM:MAK:DW:gs  
K:\BUDGET\FY 07\CC WORKSHOPS AND HEARINGS 07\AUGUST 15, 2006\COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

ATTACHMENT

CC: LAURA DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
ROBERT E. SHANNON, CITY ATTORNEY  
THOMAS M. REEVES, CITY PROSECUTOR  
CHRISTINE F. SHIPPEY, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
SUZANNE R. MASON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
REGINALD I. HARRISON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT HEADS

## FY 07 Responses

"What are the priorities you think the City should focus on achieving in the coming year?"

### Location: Budget Summit

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Quality of life beyond public safety. Increase City services for more street sweeping in the center area of the city. Business district streets are trashy looking.

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More affordable housing. Expanding park and library programs.

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Neighborhoods, starting with libraries.

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Safety is always important.

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Enhanced senior services akin to Carson Adult Services Health Care Services providing free van transportation from residences to the Center and back, with free breakfast and lunch, Nutrition and Art classes, etc.

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Addressing the poverty level in our city. Increasing job opportunities by attracting new businesses.

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Safety of over watering park trees citywide. No trimming plan since 1999.

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Balanced budget. Public safety.

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Why do developers still complain about a business unfriendly attitude by our City vis a vis other cities?

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Honesty in all dealings with public and employees, esp. PRM - maybe a full audit of grounds maintenance.

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Promote the quality of life for (children and seniors) health/environment. Strengthen safety (police and gang prevention). Support for businesses that are corporately responsible partners. Partner and support for quality schools, youth workforce prep. User fees for LB Port for infrastructure cost.

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Curtailing racial problems in our public schools.

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Stop hiring management staff it's a waste of City money. Start hiring more City workers to fix the sidewalks, trees, park maintenance.

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Curtailing race relations in our public schools.

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Library services. Affordable housing.

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Environment - no more new buildings until the existing city looks better with adequate police, firemen and libraries.

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Reduce crime. Create a safe community and enhance visibility in tourism. Allow for a "permit holiday" encouraging homeowners to improve their homes, increase values.

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Control City of Long Beach employee compensation and benefits - public employee benefits out of control. Move forward with Long Beach Airport - get it done. Graffiti removal.

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Libraries. DARE in classroom. Police and student education in a safe environment.

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## FY 07 Responses

**"Do you have any comments for the City Council to consider when deliberating on the Proposed FY 07 Budget?"**

### Location: Budget Summit

Police are reactive and not proactive. Police do not deter crime. Jobs deter crime. Creation of jobs for our youth is the answer.

Re: Parks and Recreation Budget: create an exclusive line-item for care and maintenance of City Hall Plaza grounds and planters. Since Parks and Recreation assumed these tasks, the Plaza is a disgrace to such a fine city. It is the first "intro to LB." Department of Public Works (DPW) employed grounds people who were skilled in planting and re-planting flowers and proper methods of pruning and just proper hosing down of the Plaza. Parks and Recreation hires only laborers who hack down the shrubs and do not care about the green and plants. Go take a look. Bring back DPW or take charge. This is not about the homeless. This is about the lack of responsibility by Parks and Recreation. I live 5 minutes away from City Hall. The Plaza is a daily destination for me. Instead of entering City Hall through the garage, walk the Plaza every Tuesday. Where is the Chamber of LB? DLBA? 1st Congregational? No one sees this.

If people feel they will get their money's worth in services, they are no so opposed to taxes. Now that our fiscal situation is more transparent and sound, it's time to provide better City services and ask residents to pay for it.

Glad to hear continuing City Council detailed oversight.

Suggestions on economizing on electric power usage at John Muir Elementary School outdoor lamps still lighted at 7:00 am. Likewise, precious water waste by automatic lawn sprinkler soaking public sidewalks and overflowing into street gutters.

No new taxes. Even for libraries. Find money in the current budget.

Full audit of present parks grounds contracts and parks street median contracts.

Some of what you hope to address with "one time enhancements" are really ongoing structural needs - sidewalk, streets, preventive maintenance.

Should we not raise the oil/gas extraction fees to reflect the higher oil/gas prices?

Since PRM has admitted problems with the grounds maintenance contract. Please think twice before allowing them to contract out more jobs.

It would be both wise and prudent for Council to ensure that tax expenditures drive and positively the quality of life for its citizens (LB Port, gangs, airport).

Long Beach has a very high rate of poverty. Does the Council have any thoughts about affordable housing? I have worked with inner-city families who move frequently due to evictions for taking in others, among other reasons. A 13 year old told me of 15 places he remembered living in. It is so sad to see families with children become homeless, sometimes with tragic results.

Advertise budget issues being voted for in City Council so general public will attend.

How about considering "Fire Med" like Huntington Beach to generate revenue and fund extra fire positions?

Will not support any tax hike in any form. Stop yielding to pressure (blackmail) from public employee unions - their influence on City of Long Beach is increasing and not representative of views of general public of the city.

Children. Education/prevention/intervention - keeps costs down in terms of arrests and current cases.

## FY 07 Responses

"What are some ways you think the City can provide services more effectively?"

### Location: Budget Summit

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Increase fees to business areas and owners. Residents are always looked to for the answer for more funding. This will allow more resources and more services to the residents.

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Track how City employees respond to residents' concerns. I've been calling the Police Department for 3 weeks and left about 6 messages with no response at all.

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Added input from residents in every community.

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Contract monitors for grounds maintenance. Azteca no longer providing services paid for. Present management has never held pay for services not done.

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Thank you for all you do.

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Consider more private contracting.

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Stop lying about contracting working. Not under present management. City workers are doing a large portion of work with their backs since you got rid of equipment.

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Assigned City staff and supervisors should be held accountable to provide "objective" information and documentation to Council regarding critical issues that require study for decision-making.

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Mandate parent involvement in primary, secondary, intermediate schools/education.

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Mandate parent involvement in primary, secondary, and intermediate education.

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Think in terms of consolidation. How can 2 or more things be covered at once i.e. turn school libraries into City libraries (Phoenix, AZ does). Everyone wins.

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Maximize the website. Improve it to be more user-friendly and allow residents/businesses to get services online

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Increase revenue by controlling City of Long Beach employee compensation and benefits in contract negotiations.

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Grant resources. Sales tax.

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Please keep supporting the outstanding visual arts programs for children and residents of Long Beach at the LB Museum of Art.

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## FY 07 Responses

**"Is there a proposed cost reduction or item in the City's Financial Strategic Plan that is of concern to you? What alternative would you suggest in its place to reduce the deficit?"**

**Location: All Meetings**

I'm not a fan of City-sponsored boards and commissions. Philosophically I believe the responsibility belongs to Council. Eliminate them. They require staff time, support, money, etc. Council has all kinds of informed community advisory people (volunteers).

Stop putting in the beauty dividers on the main streets. This money could be used to fix some of the bad streets.

Outside contracting.

Reallocation of \$600k from ADA to pay for \$25 million bond for parks.

Street sweep every 2 weeks. Stop raking the beach on weekends and holidays. Zero (0) budget for new councilmembers office décor. Zero (0) budget for auto and travel expense unless pre-approved by the public.

Make retirement \$ competitive with private industry for all new employees.

Forget the parks until the City budget comes to normal, we need help in the areas of: graffiti, gangs, special policing, neighborhood clean-ups. Keep our LB Beautiful!

Increase funding for street repairs and potholes. Increase funding for the police.

I agree that we need more services of Police, Fire and Library. I also want services as pavement repair and tree pruners. Can we save City money by reducing water in parks? Also, does the City make money with recycling?

Parcel tax.

Not at this time. More information needed.

(Name omitted) Smith Street next to DeForest Park

Reconsider increasing the barrel tax. Library reductions are OK as long as it is limited and not too much.

Have City departments bid for all projects vs. outsourcing projects for cost savings. Have each department start with a zero (\$0) budget and have to justify all expenses for their budget to help cut out the fat within each department.

N/A. The City needs to take a stronger stance with unions and not offer benefit enhancements in light of a deficit, i.e., the recent increases for Firefighters and Police.

## FY 07 Responses

"What do you think is the best way for the City to communicate budget information to the community?"

### Location: All Meetings

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Through their Council people.

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In the newspaper.

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Town meetings to present information in LB Business Journal.

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Community meetings. Newspaper (P-T, Grunions).

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Public meetings via neighborhood H.O. groups

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Community meetings. Mailings. Newspaper.

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Press Telegram and handouts.

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Stop fixing sidewalk in the rich areas. Come and help and fix the poor communities that really need it.

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Community forums and Press Telegram.

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TV commercials, mailings, flyers in public places: libraries, bookstores, coffee houses...

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All public channels, neighborhood associations, email, telephone, children, and flyers.

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Keep doing what you're doing with meetings, etc.

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City Council meetings, public forums, email.

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Summary sheet sent via direct mailing. Most people won't understand the info anyway. Why waste resources to produce fancy booklets and utilizing staff time to conduct town hall meetings. Those who understand the info and want it, know where to go to get it.

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## FY 07 Responses

"Do you have any other comments for the City Council to consider when deliberating on the Proposed FY 07 Budget?"

**Location: All Meetings**

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Raise the oil barrel tax

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We are becoming less competitive, especially in skilled positions such as engineers and police officers. How can we improve?

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Try to increase library hours and budget more for youth services.

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Have the police substations open 24 hours a day.

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Consider use of tidelands oil funds for City's use.

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Using General Fund for economic development.

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Restore, add library hours. Effort to fix potholes in a timely manner. Increase police patrols downtown.

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Do not make Commanders just days before retirement for LBPD. Stop all complete 100% retirement for disabled employees months before retirement to include police and fire.

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Adding Police Officers is #1 priority.

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If costs are just competitive with private industry what savings would be realized? Publicize this information in the paper.

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Raise taxes -- especially on those who can well afford -- higher income bracket-folk.

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Please keep Neighborhood Resource Center, Police PAL program open. We need these agencies to stay active for the better of our community. Without them, we are lost.

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Barrel Tax needs to be increased to \$0.30-\$0.40 per barrel, not \$0.15. No tax increases! Especially no parcel tax.

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Look into beautification for PCH and Anaheim Street.

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Possibly parcel tax and 1/2 cent sales tax to improve other needed public services.

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Not at this time. More information needed.

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Quality prevention, anti-gang programs.

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Potholes and broken pavement all over the City. Please reappropriate funds and expedite action for this problem. This is important to the overall image of the City also. High priority.

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Common sense.

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## FY 07 Responses

Reduce the cost of human resources, retirement, medical benefits, etc. through reorganization into a leaner, flatter organization. Offer Golden Handshakes, eliminate positions and non-producing employees. Implement layoffs. Reduce medical benefit costs through more employee participation/contribution, i.e. HAS or VEBA. Contract out services and reduce workforce. Use third-party administrator for WC and risk management.

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